

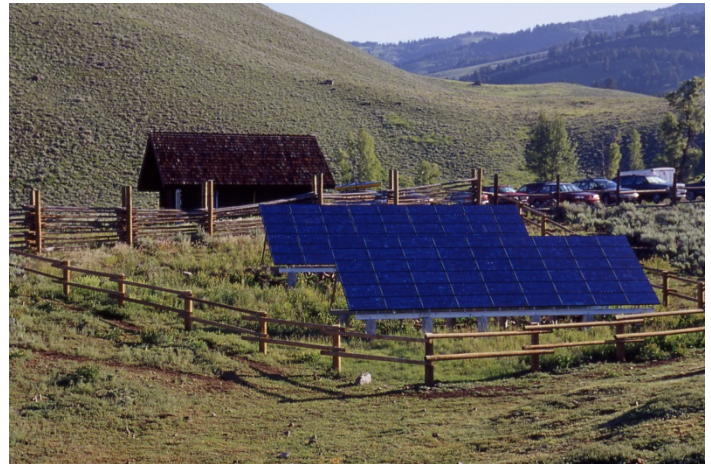


Sustainability Success Story

The Yellowstone Environmental Stewardship (YES!) at Yellowstone National Park

The Yellowstone Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Initiative is a multi-year action plan to help Yellowstone National Park further reduce its ecological footprint, increase operational efficiency, and better preserve park resources for future generations.

Yellowstone National Park has set ambitious environmental sustainability goals for its operations. They complement and build upon prior stewardship successes in Yellowstone and give employees, visitors, partners, corporations and foundations an opportunity to help serve the goals of making Yellowstone's operations more sustainable and of ensuring Yellowstone's place as a model for environmental stewardship among national and international parks. The Yellowstone Park Foundation committed to establishing the YES! Initiative and to raising \$5 million to fund the multiple projects.



The YES! projects cover six key areas: Energy, transportation, water conservation, waste reduction, green purchasing, and leadership and education. Using 2003 figures as the baseline, Yellowstone aims to achieve the following by 2016 – the 100th birthday of the National Park Service:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30%
- Reduce electricity consumption by 15%
- Reduce fossil fuel consumption by 18%
- Reduce water consumption by 15%
- Divert 100% of solid waste from landfills

Energy: Through the YES! Initiative, the park will implement new technologies such as solar and micro hydropower, install high-efficiency appliances, equipment, lighting fixtures and sensors, and implement an energy education program. The park is taking a comprehensive approach to resolving energy issues, that includes setting goals for utilizing renewable sources of energy and committing to a 15% reduction in energy consumption by 2016.

Transportation: As part of the YES! Initiative, the park will reduce its consumption of fuel by increasing the use of renewable fuels, expanding the use of hybrid vehicles, introducing high-efficiency tire technology, expanding an employee rideshare program, and incorporating employee protocols to minimize inter-Park travel. YES! transportation-related projects include increasing the number of hybrid vehicles used by the





park, installing high-efficiency tires on all park vehicles, expanding its rideshare program, and reducing the the number of miles driven by staff through encouraging video-conferencing park-wide.

Water conservation: The Park will implement water conservation practices and education programs through the YES! Initiative. With support from Unilever and the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the Park will partner with college and graduate interns from Georgia Tech Research Institute to develop a real-time water metering model. The model will allow water use to be monitored and will predict the impact of water conservation measures.

Waste reduction: The park will continue to increase its solid waste diversion through recycling, composting, and other waste management improvements—another aspect of the YES! Initiative. Waste reduction projects include both staff and visitor waste management education campaigns and improving signage and standardizing recycling bins so that visitors can correctly identify what waste is recyclable. This project could reduce 173 tons of solid waste annually – a 15% diversion. Other waste-related efforts include examining the routes driven to remove waste from locations around the park, since understanding the routes driven by trucks hauling waste will allow Yellowstone to more effectively plan these routes, which will result in greater efficiency, thereby saving fuel. Another project involves establishing drop boxes for reusable maps, which allows future visitors to use the lightly used maps. This effort not only reduces waste, but saves on the expense of printing and distribution and provides another way for Park visitors to be made aware of recycling and reusing as a lifestyle model.

Green Purchasing: Through the YES! Initiative, the Park will work with its concessioners to consolidate procurement, saving money and therefore enabling expanded use of environmentally preferable products and services. The Park will endeavor to: switch from plastic to aluminum beverage containers where possible; mandate the use of bio-based plastic or paper bags and promote reusable bag sales; mandate 100% post-consumer recycled content for most paper purchases; promote sustainable packaging; require soy-based printing for all park materials; and switch to compostable tableware and cutlery.

Leadership and Education: For more than a decade, Yellowstone has been a leader in the National Park Service with its conscientious integration of environmental sustainability efforts and programs. Through the YES! Initiative, the Park will engage and inspire its employees to implement cultural change for environmental stewardship and make Yellowstone a leader among public lands worldwide. As part of the YES! Initiative Yellowstone is increasing its internship opportunities and sharing information about its progress in environmental sustainability with visitors and the general public through its newspaper, website, an annual report, podcasts, and brochures. The outreach will also promote how visitors can make a difference at home.

Sustainability Outcomes and Other Benefits: Energy Conservation and Renewables, Waste Reduction, Fuel and GHG Reductions, Water Conservation, Green Purchasing and Fostering Stewardship Beyond Our Boundaries.